

Like many of us, Congressman BISHOP said he was committed to doing everything possible to locate each and every American missing in action and to repatriate their remains.

Our keynote speaker was Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Togo D. West, Jr., who eloquently addressed the Braintrust about this being an important opportunity to think about the issues that affect veterans in this country from the African-American perspective. He also said that the Braintrust provides an excellent forum to discuss what we all can bring to challenging issues affecting veterans, and because these issues affect veterans, they affect all of us. In addressing the "Two E's: Education and Entrepreneurship," he asked why are fewer African Americans participating in Montgomery GI Bill benefits than in previous eras? Why was this happening after decades of African Americans pursuing civil rights, better housing, a higher standard of living, and opportunities for themselves and their children, particularly when this benefit is something earned through military service?

Secretary West also stated that entrepreneurship is a key to unlocking opportunity for veterans to be able to participate in the American dream. He indicated that last year, VA addressed the question of minority entrepreneurship, and he said that VA leads all other Federal agencies, in terms of percentages, in making grants to small and disadvantaged business. Secretary West agreed that VA would undertake a new partnership with the Braintrust as a way to digest information and put it to use. Secretary West urged persistence and determination in addressing these pressing issues, saying that for like the "Field of Dreams," if we have the determination, the resources will be found. Secretary West urged participants of the Braintrust to examine all of these issues and questions, and he expressed thanks for the role the Braintrust plays in this discussion.

At the conclusion of Secretary West's speech, Mr. Wayne Smith, President and CEO of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation presented him with the first Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin, legislated by Congress to commemorate Black Patriotism, and the 275th anniversary of the birth of Crispus Attucks, the first African American killed during the American Revolution. Following this very moving moment, Mr. Michael Handy, Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Mr. Morocco Coleman, Assistant Director for the Office of Veterans Programs for the Georgia Department of Labor, presided over a special awards presentation to Mr. Ron Armstead, Executive Coordinator for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust, and Mr. Anthony Hawkins, Associate Director of the Center for Minority Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. These awards were given on behalf of the entire Veterans Braintrust Executive Committee in appreciation of their outstanding leadership, commitment, and service to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus, and other Members of Congress over the past 10 years.

Other 10th anniversary awards were presented to 30 exemplary veterans for their national and equally important community service: Dr. Doris "Lucki" Allen, Dr. Irving Allen, M.D.; Mr. Ramsey Alexander, Jr.; Mr. Kent Amos; Mr. Charles Ballard; Mr. Lafayette

Barnes; Dr. Anne Bell, M.D.; Mr. Bruce Bolling; Col. Mary Boyd; Dr. Howard Brabson; Ms. Thelma Branch, USNA; Ms. Sheila Chamberlain; Brig. Gen. Robert Cocroft, USAR; Ms. Nora Dunn, RN; Mr. Calvin Gross; Mr. Roger "Kevvy" Harris; Mr. Duane Jackson; Ms. Dorothy Johnson; Mr. John Johnson; Mrs. Norma King-Joiner; Mr. Alvin Jones; Mr. William Leftwich, III; Mr. Leonard Long; Dr. Shirley Marks, M.D., M.P.H.; Col. Anita McMiller, USA, Ret.; Mr. Michael Neely; Col. Felix "Pete" Peterson, Jr., USA, Ret.; Mr. Harold Raymond; Ms. Lizette Rhones; Mr. Michael Robbins; Lt. Col. Jordan Simmons, III, USA, Ret.; Mr. William Sims; Mr. Peters Spears; Mr. Ralph Thomas III; Mr. Charles Tompkins; Assemblyman Darryl Towns; Mr. Larry Williams; Mr. Carmen Wilson II; Dr. Reginald Wilson; Mr. Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, USAF, Ret. (Posthumous); Black Patriots Foundation; Troops to Teachers Program, Department of Defense, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support; and the Veterans Education Project.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust activities closed with a tenth anniversary reception co-hosted by the Black Patriots Foundation, the Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc., the Gatehouse Group, Inc. and Amistad Associates. More than 100 veterans, family members and friends gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the past 10 years and to renew old friendships. Veterans will always hold a very special place in my heart and I look forward to working together with African American veterans representatives and advocates in order to present a strong national voice for veterans. I thank Dr. Elizabeth Allen, Mr. Arthur Barham, Mr. Harold "Lightbulb" Bryant, Mr. Ralph Cooper, Mr. Morocco Coleman, Mr. Michael Handy, Mr. Thomas Harris, Ms. Lane Knox, Mr. Reginald Lawrence, Mr. Job Mashariki, Dr. Erwin Parson, Mr. Clyde Poag, Mr. Wayne Smith, Ms. Arlene Williams, Ms. Joann Williams, Dr. James Woodard, Mr. Arthur Wright, and Mr. Thomas Wynn, Sr. for their commitment, dedication, and perseverance. I also want to thank the Congressional staff members Mr. Nick Martinelli, Ms. Brittlely Wise, volunteer Mr. Ron Armstead, Rev. Rosita Mathews, and forum evaluators Dr. Brenda Moore, Dr. Brenda "BJ" Jarmon, Dr. Lorraine Blackman, and Dr. Phillip Schervish, for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SIDNEY P. YATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today in recognition of the distinguished career of my colleague and friend Congressman SIDNEY YATES. His service to his district and commitment to the amelioration of the lives of his constituents has long been a source of admiration for me.

YATES' 48 years as a United States Congressman has been a gift to the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois and the nation on a whole. He is responsible for channeling billions of dollars into various local projects ranging from the Chicago Deep Tunnel project to the Chicago Shoreline project. Additionally,

YATES served as the House's chief defender of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. During the Bush years, when the NEA was under attack and politically unpopular, he insightfully recognized the institution's importance and successfully fought for its preservation for future generations of artists and art enthusiasts.

The assiduous and tireless efforts of SID YATES have never gone unnoticed by his constituents. Every two years, his general election percentages have consistently been robust and resilient.

So, today, I salute "Chicago's statesman." YATES' lifetime of service is a standard of excellent that I would encourage all of my colleagues to emulate.

DR. CARL M. KUTTLE HONORED
AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
COLLEGE PRESIDENT OF THE
YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to inform my colleagues that Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, Jr., President of the St. Petersburg Junior College, has just been named the outstanding community college president of the year by the National Association of Community College Trustees.

Having the privilege to represent the St. Petersburg Junior College, I know of the great work that Dr. Kuttler has done these past 20 years as President to make it one of the premiere colleges in our nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the college ranks third in the Nation in the number of Liberal Arts and Science degrees conferred, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Health Professions and Related Sciences, fourth in the number of associate degrees awarded in Nursing, and fourth in the total number of associate degrees awarded.

Dr. Kuttler has devoted his life to the growth of the St. Petersburg Junior College, having served in various capacities for 32 years. He was first a student at the college beginning in 1958 and in his second year was elected president of the student government, so he understands the needs of the students and faculty from various perspectives.

In addition to raising the academic level of excellence at the college, Dr. Kuttler has also established a number of unique programs that respond to the needs of our State and our community. In 1998, he negotiated a special agreement under which the Allstate Insurance Company agreed to donate to the college land and facilities valued at \$11.2 million. With this gift in place, Dr. Kuttler and the college have secured Federal and State grants totaling more than \$30 million to establish a state of the art Southeastern Public Safety Institute, which provides training to Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and emergency response personnel.

Under his leadership, the college also responded to an unmet need for trained health care professionals by raising \$3.4 million in gifts, and \$6.5 million in State funds, to establish one of our Nation's finest allied health